



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Summary January 4, 2010**

#### **Approval of October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summaries**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Thompson. The October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting summaries were approved.

#### **Introductions**

Introductions of members and guests were made around the room.

#### **Update from Upcounty Regional Services Center Staff**

Catherine Matthews, Director, Upcounty Regional Services Center, reported on the following:

- The County Executive plans to submit the CIP to the County Council by January 15, 2010.
- Ride On will operate under a new "S-Service Plan" when snow, storms or other special circumstances occur and affect Ride On's ability to follow normal weekday schedules.
- The County Council has announced two vacancies on the Montgomery County Planning Board. Applications are due to Council for the Commissioner position by January 13<sup>th</sup>, and for the Planning Board Chairman's position by March 8.
- HHS announced that residents can now make appointments for H1N1 vaccinations online ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/h1n1flu)). The H1N1 vaccination is FREE and clinics are open to all County residents. Both nasal spray and injectable vaccine will be available. Those who prefer to make appointments by telephone can call the flu appointment line (240-777-4040) on Monday, January 11 and Monday, January 25 from 1 to 4 p.m.
- The County Executive's appointed Tenant Workgroup report is out and available on the County's website.
- The County will receive a share of \$300 million from the federal government for transportation infrastructure related to Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) activities in Ft. Belvoir, VA and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.
- Ms. Matthews announced the upcoming Martin Luther King Day of Service. Everyone is encouraged to participate in one of the numerous events and activities that will take place county-wide. Assistant Director Jewru Bandeh also shared that the URSC staff will partner with the Boys and Girls Club this year in their commemoration of the holiday.
- Montgomery Works (a partnership with the Economic Development) was officially opened on December 14, 2009. The opening event was very well attended by county as well as civic and community leaders. Mr. Bandeh stressed how important it is to have a one-stop employment service center in the upcounty region at such a time as this.
- Residents can now find out the status of various CIP projects and construction progress online on the County's website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dgs](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dgs).

- Census 2010: Everyone is encouraged to complete the 10 questions on the census questionnaire that will be delivered in their respective mailboxes and mail the cards back. The Census Bureau also has a number of jobs available in order to facilitate a successful census season.

### **Update from the County Council**

Dale Tibbitts, from Councilmember Elrich's office, reported that:

- The Council returns from recess on January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The new Council President and Vice-President are Nancy Floreen and Valerie Ervin, respectively.
- The operating budget is due from the Executive to the Council around the middle of March.

### **Discussion:**

The Board discussed the following topics: Upcounty CIP Priorities; Code Enforcement Legislation – Bill 22-09, Board of Appeals (Notice of Violation); and the Gaithersburg West Master Plan/Life Sciences Strategy. After some discussion on all three, it was moved (B. Davis) and seconded (G. Donovan) to adopt the recommendation from the Board's Land Use and Preservation Committee on Upcounty CIP Priorities; the Board adopted the recommendation. It was moved (G. Donovan) and seconded (D. Noble) to adopt the Land Use and Preservation Committee's recommendation to amend the language in the proposed Code Enforcement Legislation to state: "Code enforcement staff are authorized to issue a citation for any code violation without first issuing a Notice of Violation for any repeat violators. For any property owner who has not previously received a code violation, the Code enforcement staff must first issue a Notice of Violation prior to issuing a citation." The Board adopted the motion. Both recommendations will be forwarded to the County Executive. It was moved (R. Owolabi) and seconded (A. Aviles) to send the discussion on the Gaithersburg West Master Plan/Life Sciences Strategy back to both the Land Use and Preservation Committee and the Quality of Life Committee for further discussion. The Board voted in agreement with one opposed (B. Davis). There will be a joint committee meeting on January 25, 2010 to develop a recommendation for the full Board to consider on February 8.

### **Report from the Chairperson**

Chair Bob Thompson commended Board members' work on reviewing and developing recommendations on the budget, the legislation and master plan.

### **Committee and Liaison Reports**

*Land Use and Preservation Committee* – No report.

*Quality of Life Committee* – No report.

*Airpark Liaison Committee* – Ms. Atay reported that the Montgomery Village community is still concerned about the safety of having an airpark near their community. The Federal Aviation Administration has found no evidence of negligence or improper activity or violation of altitudes guidelines. Montgomery Village residents may send a community statement to the County in the future.

The President of the Airpark Liaison Committee has said that the committee has met the community's concerns but would like the FAA to extend their observation period. Ms. Atay provided handouts (a written response from the FAA to a complainant, the Airpark's draft mission statement, and suggested policies for safety and noise abatement for runway #32.).

*Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board Liaison* - Mr. Eapen reported that the Department of Recreation is exploring budget reductions. The Department of Parks recently solicited public comments on a tennis facility that is proposed for South Germantown Recreational Park.

*Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group (DFIG)* – No report.

*Speed Cameras Advisory Committee*– No report.

*Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee* – No report.

*Permitting Services Advisory Committee* – No report.

*Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Group* – No report.

Mr. Noble informed the Board that there are still problems with fire apparatus at the Damascus station.

#### **Community Comments**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

*Members present:* Andres Aviles, Bob Thompson, Joanne Atay, Heinz Bachmann, Juan Cardenas, Joel Cockrell, Bradley Davis, George Donovan, Cherian Eapen, Natalia Farrar, James King, Matthew Leakan, Doug Noble, Robert Owolabi, Christopher Snead

*Staff present:* Catherine Matthews, Jewru Bandeh and Andrea Bush

*Guests:* Pam Saul, Delegate Rona Kramer's office (District 14); Andre Taylor, The Gazette; Naomi Bloch, Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg's office; Marilyn Balcombe, Resident; Robert Nelson, Board Member, Greater Goshen Civic Association; Rich Parsons, Parsons and Associates.